

very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 857, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeremy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Jeremy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremy Allen Patania for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2206, the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Act." This legislation includes the important funding that has already passed this chamber to provide resources for servicemen and women, for military and veterans' health care, and for valuable programs like LIHEAP and SCHIP.

This bill ensures accountability. H.R. 2206 provides 3 months of funding for the war in Iraq but requires the president to report back to Congress about whether certain goals are met before the rest of the funds will be released by subsequent legislation.

It is time for the president to listen to the American people and support this reasonable legislation to help bring an end to this war.

STUDENT LOAN SUNSHINE ACT

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the most important goal of the Student Loan Sunshine Act is to protect students and parents and help them receive the most affordable loan possible. With that in mind, I would like to mention that recently, a number of my colleagues and I sent a letter to Secretary Spellings regarding the urgent need to reopen the national student loan database for students and parents to receive low interest consolidation loans before the rates are changed on July 1st.

Although, we fully support new and better safeguards to protect student privacy which many student loan companies advocate, it is crucial that both students and lenders have safe and secure access to this information.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH A. DART, PRESIDENT OF MASSACHUSETTS BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a good friend and tremendous labor leader, Joseph A. Dart. Joe has dedicated his life to improving the lives of working men and women throughout Massachusetts.

Joining Local 257 Painter & Allied Trades in 1974, Joe's hard work and leadership skills propelled his rise through the ranks. In 1980, Joe became a Business Agent and the following year advanced to Business Manager. By 1985, Joe held the position of President of the Pioneer Valley Building Trades Council. Joe's ability to advance his union and provide the fellow members of his trade with employment exemplifies the characteristics in which all members of the Building Trades should strive.

Between 1994 and 1996, Joe added three new positions to his impressive list of accomplishments, all of which he holds to this day. In 1994, Joe became President of the Massachusetts Building Trades Council, an organization which is comprised of 72 local unions and 10 Local Building Trades Councils representing 75,000 construction trades men and women in Massachusetts. In 1995, Joe became Co-Chair of the Labor-Management Construction Safety Alliance, where he succeeded in passing the OSHA 10-Hour Law requiring all construction workers on public projects to be trained in safety. In 1996, Joe became the Executive Vice President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

Throughout his career in the Building Trades, Joe has been an advocate for workers rights and fought to provide his fellow brothers and sisters of labor with fair wages and skilled training. Joe has negotiated dozens of Project Labor Agreements to guarantee good wages, hours, and working conditions on massive construction sites. These agreements have also guaranteed employers access to a skilled workforce and eliminated labor relations problems. In 1988, Joe was instrumental in defeating a ballot question, which was intended to remove Prevailing Wage Laws in the state of Massachusetts. Ten years later, Joe was essential in the passage of an amendment to the Massachusetts Payment of Wages Law, which increased penalties on employers who willfully and intentionally violated payment rights of employees.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to join with Joe's family, friends and brothers and sisters of labor to thank him for his incredible dedication and commitment to the fight for workers' rights and service to the American Labor Movement. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Joe's distinguished career and wishing him good health and success in all his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUZANNE LICHNER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Suzanne Lichner, a licensed practical nurse, who is a distinguished and devoted professional in her field.

Prior to joining the nursing staff at Boulder City Hospital, Suzanne worked as an LPN in home health care and hospice care. Suzanne began her career at Boulder City Hospital in 2000 with the Skilled Nursing Facility, where she quickly demonstrated her ability, talent, dedication, and compassion towards her patients. During the past 7 years, Suzanne's strengths as a health care professional have earned her the respect of her peers and colleagues. In 2006, Suzanne transferred to the Medical/ Surgical Unit at Boulder City Hospital, where she serves as a medical surgical nurse.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Suzanne Lichner. Her passion and her love of nursing have improved the lives of countless patients in Las Vegas. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF SIGNATURE LEARNING CENTER

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Signature Learning Center in Evansville for being recognized as one of the top charter schools in the nation by the Center for Education Reform (CER). The Center is one of only 53 schools to receive the National Charter School of the Year Award and was selected based on student achievement, satisfaction of parents, and its policies and programs.

The Signature Learning Center has approximately 275 students with an average class size of 20. Its students excel academically with 100 percent enrollment in advanced college preparatory courses and 100 percent graduation rate. For these reasons and others, the school was listed by Newsweek as one of the top 100 High Schools in the nation in 2006.

Signature Learning Center joins nearly 4,000 charter schools nationwide in educating over 1 million American children.

Children are our nation's greatest resource. The quality of education they receive has a direct impact on the strength of our economy, the safety of our communities, and the ability of our nation to compete in the world. The Signature Learning Center is providing children in southern Indiana with the tools they need to meet their full potential and make a difference in our world. I am proud to recognize them for their accomplishments today.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 15

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the short-term energy outlook for summer 2007, focusing on oil and gasoline.

SD-366

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine green buildings, focusing on benefits to health, the environment, and the bottom line.

SD-406

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine equal representation in Congress, focusing on providing voting rights to the District of Columbia.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Justice politicizing the hiring and firing of United States Attorneys, focusing on preserving prosecutorial independence.

SD-226

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Retirement and Aging Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Alzheimer's disease, focusing on current and future breakthrough research.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 553, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 800, to establish the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in the State of New York, S. 916, to modify the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, to establish the Minidoka National Historic Site, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and improvements of the Gooding Division of the Minidoka Project, Idaho, S. 1057, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the New

River in the States of North Carolina and Virginia as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1209, to provide for the continued administration of Santa Rosa Island, Channel Islands National Park, in accordance with the laws (including regulations) and policies of the National Park Service, S. 1281, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain rivers and streams of the headwaters of the Snake River System as additions to the National Wild and Scenic River System, H.R. 161, to adjust the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument to include the Nidoto Nai Yoni Memorial in Bainbridge Island, Washington, H.R. 247, to designate a Forest Service trail at Waldo Lake in the Willamette National Forest in the State of Oregon as a national recreation trail in honor of Jim Weaver, a former Member of the House of Representatives, and H.R. 376, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including the battlefields and related sites of the First and Second Battles of Newtonia, Missouri, during the Civil War as part of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield or designating the battlefields and related sites as a separate unit of the National Park System.

SD-366

MAY 16

9:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled "Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007", an original bill to make technical corrections to Title III of SAFETEA-LU; H.R. 1675, to suspend the requirements of the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding electronic filing of previous participation certificates and regarding filing of such certificates with respect to certain low-income housing investors, H.R. 1676, to reauthorize the program of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for loan guarantees for Indian housing, S. 254, to award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to Constantino Brumidi, and the nominations of David George Nason, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Institutions, Mario Mancuso, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration, Michael W. Tankersley, of Texas, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank, Robert M. Couch, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Janis Herschkowitz, of Pennsylvania, and Nguyen Van Hanh, of California, and David George Nason, of Rhode Island, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank.

SD-538

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the National Institutes of Health: A New Vision for Medical Research.

SD-116

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the explosive costs of elder care and determine if

they are hurting family finances and business competition.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the state of mercury regulation, science, and technology.

SD-406

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to receive testimony from sundry public witnesses.

SD-192

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the efficacy of United States preference programs.

SD-215

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine rogue online pharmacies, focusing on the growing problem of internet drug trafficking.

SD-226

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael K. Kussman, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD-562

10:30 a.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine Medicare Advantage marketing and sales, focusing on who has the advantage.

SD-106

2 p.m.

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to markup S. 1256, to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize loan programs under that Act.

SR-428A

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

3 p.m.

Appropriations

Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

SD-192

MAY 17

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the United States European Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2008 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SH-216

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine law enforcement in Indian Country.

SR-485

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the federal government's security clearance process, focusing on evaluating progress and identifying obstacles to improvement.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1027, to prevent tobacco smuggling, to ensure the collection of all tobacco taxes, S. 221, to amend title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to livestock and poultry contracts, S. 376, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, S. 1079, to establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, S. Res. 138, honoring the accomplishments and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez, S. Res. 132, recognizing the Civil Air Patrol for 65 years of service to the United States, and S. Res. 130, designating July 28, 2007, as "National Day of the American Cowboy", and possible authorization of subpoenas in the connection with investigation into the replacement of U.S. attorneys.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine consolidation of National Association of Securities Dealers and the regulatory functions of the New York Stock Exchange, focusing on working towards improved regulation.

SD-538

Intelligence

Closed business meeting to markup an original bill authorizing funds for fiscal year 2008 for the intelligence community.

SH-219

MAY 18

10:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine growth trends in health care premiums for active and retired federal employees.

SD-342

MAY 21

2 p.m.

Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To continue hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the National Institutes of Health: A New Vision for Medical Research.

SD-116

MAY 22

9 a.m.

Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-222

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the progress of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act (Public Law 109-236).

SD-628

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine restoring habeas corpus, focusing on protecting American values and the Great Writ.

SD-226

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-232A

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security

Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine rail safety reauthorization.

SR-253

12:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Airland Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-222

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine improving air service to small and rural communities.

SR-253

4 p.m.

Armed Services

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-222

5:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-232A

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine health legislation.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine communications, taxation and federalism.

SR-253

11:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Strategic Forces Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-222

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-222

MAY 24

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-222

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael E. Baroody, of Virginia, to be Chairman and Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Charles Darwin Snelling, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

SR-253

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Russia, focusing on the reemergence of Russia as a major political and economic power.

B318RHOB

3 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Disaster Recovery Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine issues relative to residents of Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina or Rita, focusing on the goals, costs, management and impediments facing Louisiana's Road Home Program.

SD-342

JUNE 13

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to markup pending legislation.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine nominations to the Federal Election Commission.

SR-301

JUNE 27

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense, focusing on cooperation on employment issues.

SD-562

POSTPONEMENTS		Columbia, to be General Counsel of the	Commerce, Science, and Transportation
MAY 15		Central Intelligence Agency.	To hold hearings to examine violence in
		SD-106	the media.
9:30 a.m.			SR-253
Armed Services		MAY 17	
Business meeting to consider pending	10 a.m.	Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	
military nomination.		Employment and Workplace Safety Sub-	
	SR-222	committee	
2:30 p.m.		To hold hearings to examine the efficacy	
Intelligence		of the United States Department of	
To hold hearings to examine the nomina-		Labor, focusing on enforcing the law.	
tion of John A. Rizzo, of the District of		SD-628	